

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An extruded, melt-mixed thermoplastic resin/superabsorbent polymer blend composition comprising ~~consisting~~ essentially of
 - (a) one or more superabsorbent polymer and
 - (b) one or more thermoplastic resin comprising a functional group which interacts ionically or covalently with (a), the resin being a polyacrylic acid, ethylene and acrylic acid copolymer, ethylene, t-butylacrylate and acrylic acid terpolymer, ethylene and methacrylic acid copolymer, ionomers of ethylene and methacrylic acid copolymers, ethylene, vinyl acetate and carbon monoxide terpolymer, ethylene and carbon monoxide copolymer, ethylene, acrylic acid and carbon monoxide terpolymers, ethylene, n-butylacrylate and carbon monoxide terpolymer or blends thereof.
2. (Previously presented) The extruded thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition of Claim 1 having a melt draw down rate between about 5 and about 100 feet per minute and a melt tension between about 0.1 and about 10 under temperature and applied load conditions that give a melt flow rate of between about 0.1 and about 300 g/10 min.
3. (Previously presented) The extruded thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition of Claim 1 wherein the superabsorbent polymer is prepared from water-soluble α,β -ethylenically unsaturated monomers.
4. (Previously presented) The extruded thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer of Claim 3 wherein the α,β -ethylenically unsaturated monomers is a monocarboxylic acid, a vinyl polycarboxylic acid, an acrylamide or mixtures thereof.
5. (Previously presented) The extruded thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition of Claim 1 wherein the superabsorbent polymer is a cellulosic-graft copolymer, a starch-graft copolymer, a starch-g-poly(acrylic acid), a polyacrylamide; a polyvinyl alcohol, a poly(acrylic acid), a copolymer of sulfonic acid group containing monomer, or mixtures thereof.

6. (Previously presented) The extruded thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition of Claim 5, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is crosslinked, partially neutralized, surface treated or combinations thereof.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The extruded thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition of Claim 1 further ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a surfactant.

9. (Currently Amended) The extruded thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition of Claim 1 further ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a polyethylene, a copolymer of polyethylene, a polypropylene, a copolymer of polypropylene or polystyrene.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing an extruded thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition comprising the step of extruding a melt – mixed combination of:

- (a) one or more superabsorbent polymer and
- (b) one or more thermoplastic resin comprising a functional group which interacts ionically or covalently with (a) the resin being a polyacrylic acid, ethylene and acrylic acid copolymer, ethylene, t-butylacrylate and acrylic acid terpolymer, ethylene and methacrylic acid copolymer, ionomers of ethylene and methacrylic acid copolymers, ethylene, vinyl acetate and carbon monoxide terpolymer, ethylene and carbon monoxide copolymer, ethylene, acrylic acid and carbon monoxide terpolymers, ethylene, n-butylacrylate and carbon monoxide terpolymer or blends thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10 further ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of the step of combining (c) a surfactant.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) An extruded thermoplastic superabsorbent polymer blend composition ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of

(a) one or more superabsorbent polymer and

(b) one or more thermoplastic resin comprising a functional group which interacts ionically or covalently with (a), the thermoplastic resin being a polyacrylic acid, ethylene and acrylic acid copolymer, ethylene, t-butylacrylate and acrylic acid terpolymer, ethylene and methacrylic acid copolymer, ethylene, vinyl acetate and carbon monoxide terpolymer, ethylene and carbon monoxide copolymer, ethylene, acrylic acid and carbon monoxide terpolymers, ethylene, n-butylacrylate and carbon monoxide terpolymer or a blend thereof), the composition having a melt draw down rate between about 5 and about 100 feet per minute and a melt tension between about 0.1 and about 10 under temperature and applied load conditions that give a melt flow rate of between about 0.1 and about 300 g/10 min.

33. (Previously presented) The extruded blend of Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin is present in an amount of greater than 50 parts by weight but less than or equal to 99 parts by weight based on weight of the blend.

34. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin is an ethylene/n-butylacrylate/carbon monoxide terpolymer.
35. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin is an ethylene/vinylacetate/carbon monoxide terpolymer, the terpolymer having a carbon monoxide content of at least 9 percent by weight based on terpolymer weight.
36. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin is an ethylene/acrylic acid copolymer,
37. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin is an ethylene/acrylic acid copolymer, the copolymer having an acrylic acid content of from about 10 weight percent to about 20 weight percent based on copolymer weight.
38. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin is an ethylene/methyl acrylate/methacrylic acid terpolymer.
39. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin is an ethylene/methacrylic acid copolymer.
40. (New) The composition of Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin is a zinc ionomer of an ethylene/methacrylic acid copolymer or a sodium ionomer of an ethylene/methacrylic acid copolymer.